



# NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **VanderMeer Authors Resolution for Glaucoma Awareness**

(Madison) – Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed a joint resolution authored by Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R – Tomah) in recognition of January being Glaucoma Awareness Month in the state of Wisconsin.

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that gradually steal sight without warning. According to a recent article published by the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Monroe County, over 3 million Americans and over 60 million people worldwide have glaucoma, and experts on the sight stealing disease estimate that half of them don't know they have it. In addition, although the most common forms primarily affect the middle-aged and the elderly, glaucoma can affect people of all ages.

Representatives from the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Monroe County were able to attend the floor session and were presented with an official citation commemorating the joint resolution's passage in the Assembly.

Representative VanderMeer released the following statement:

"I was more than happy to bring this resolution forward today. This disease not only disproportionately affects the elderly. African Americans and those of Asian and Hispanic descent are at a higher risk of contracting the disease as well. Creating awareness for the prevalence of the disease and the importance of regular eye exams is critical.

"I'm thrilled that folks from the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Monroe County were able to be here today and I want to thank them for all that they do in our communities to help with aging, disability, mental health, and substance abuse issues. They play such an important role in our communities and are really on the front lines dealing with some of the most important issues we face as a state and that my colleagues and I deal with in the Legislature."

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*The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.*